

medical students, residents, graduate students, colleagues and others, encouraging them always to strive for excellence and look for new answers. As a researcher he has helped his department secure funding for more than 20 years from the National Institutes of Health. He is nationally and internationally recognized for his research and has authored more than 150 scientific articles, 23 book chapters, and 8 books.

In 1997 and 2000 Dr. Gamelli was named by Chicago Magazine as one of "Chicago's Top Doctors," and in 1982, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989 and 1990, he was named Professor of the Year by the medical students at Loyola. He was selected by the faculty council of Loyola University Chicago as the 2002 member of the year for his excellence in teaching, research, patient care and service. In light of his extraordinary record of achievement, his alma mater, Saint Michael's College, inducted Dr. Gamelli into the inaugural class of its Alumni Academic Hall of Fame in 2002.

Having served the ABA admirably, Dr. Gamelli recently stepped down as ABA president at this year's annual meeting. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Dr. Gamelli for his distinguished service and for his ongoing contributions to the American people and the medical community, and I wish him all the best in the future.

#### REPORTING OF S. 1053

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to give notice that on April 27, 2005 the Committee on Rules & Administration reported an original bill to amend the regulatory and reporting structure of organizations registered under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER RODINO

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the passing of former Congressman Peter Rodino and also to celebrate his life.

The son of hard-working Italian immigrants, Peter Rodino grew up on the streets of Newark, NJ, and rose to become a prominent and respected figure during a defining moment in our Nation's history.

Serving as the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Rodino was charged with managing the impeachment hearings of President Richard Nixon. He had chaired the committee for less than a year when the hearings began, and those who did not know him wondered how he would respond to such a monumental challenge.

He soon put all doubts to rest. He conducted the hearings patiently, thoroughly, and fairly, and in doing so he helped guide our Nation through a difficult test of our Constitution.

By the time the committee had heard all of the evidence about the Watergate break-in and coverup, its members approved several articles of impeachment

by overwhelming bipartisan margins. By this action, they proved that our system of government is greater than any one person or political party.

Most of the Nation got to know Congressman Rodino during the Watergate hearings, but I had known him for years through his tireless work on behalf of the people of his district and New Jersey. He loved the city of Newark and the people of Newark, and he always had their interests at heart.

Whether he was helping to pass the 1966 civil rights bill, extending the Voting Rights Act, or leading the effort to make Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday, Peter Rodino worked tirelessly to make this Nation as great as it can possibly be.

After I came to the Senate, I had the privilege of working with him to help the people of New Jersey. We served together for 6 years, and I was always amazed by the energy and determination he brought to his job.

He had tackled every challenge with that same energy and determination, from his service in World War II with the 1st Armored Division to his work at Seton Hall law school, where he shared his love of the law with students.

Every now and then, someone comes along who is an inspiration for us all, regardless of political party, religious faith, or ethnic background. Peter Rodino was just such a fellow. While I will miss him very much, I will always treasure his friendship with me and remember all the good he did for New Jersey and its people.

#### VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM ACT OF 2005

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, in March Senator ROBERTS joined me in introducing S. 548, the Voluntary Public Access and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Act of 2005.

This legislation is enthusiastically supported not only by America's hunters and anglers, but also by agricultural producers, private landowners and those interested in rural development. Open Fields, as this bipartisan legislation is commonly known, addresses hunting, fishing and other recreational access on private land. The legislation also tackles rural development issues head on.

Dwindling access to quality hunting, angling and other wildlife-dependent opportunities is a trend that slowly is pulling apart the American sporting tradition. At the same time, farmers, ranchers, and small town businesses are desperately looking for the means and opportunities to revitalize and stimulate their local economies. These two needs, the need for better access for sportsmen who can not afford to lease land, and the need for economic stimulation in rural America have intersected and spurred the creation of highly effective state public access programs.

Walk-in or access programs are not a new concept. In fact they have very successfully begun to reverse the trend of diminishing numbers of hunters and anglers in States with these programs. At the same time, these programs generate cash and economic activity in rural economies by encouraging increased numbers of hunters, anglers, and others who enjoy wildlife-related activities to spend more of their outdoor recreation dollars in rural America.

Eighteen States are already using their own limited funding resources to finance very successful access programs. These programs have set the stage for even greater success in the future, but only if additional funding becomes available. When enacted into law, Open Fields will provide \$20 million per year in Commodity Credit Corporation funds over the next five years. These funds will be used to provide U.S. Department of Agriculture grants for States with recreational walk-in or access programs. It is our intent that access to all the land that property owners voluntarily enroll under this legislation will be available for, but not limited to, hunting and fishing activities.

I remind our colleagues that the Open Fields legislation offers benefits to many of their constituents, regardless of their State or district, or whether they represent urban or rural Americans. We all know that millions of city dwellers hunt and fish. Access to quality areas to hunt, fish, and enjoy other wildlife related activities within reasonable distances from urban areas is becoming dramatically reduced.

As we travel the rural areas of our States, Senator ROBERTS and I experience firsthand the tremendous need to bring additional income into small towns and communities in Kansas, North Dakota, and across rural America. As members of the Committee on Agriculture, we are constantly looking for alternatives to supplement traditional agricultural programs and improve the economic safety net for our farmers and ranchers that are not considered trade distorting. Open Fields is a program that can help achieve those objectives.

The positive impact of making private lands available to the hunting public is highly visible in Mr. Roberts' home State of Kansas and in my own State of North Dakota. According to data obtained from a 2001 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study, Kansas and North Dakota have a total of 1,750,000 acres currently enrolled in state-run access programs. Furthermore, this study notes that hunting licenses sold in the State of Kansas increased from 175,000 in 1996 to 205,000 in 2001, a 22.9 percent increase. In North Dakota, hunting license sales increased from 118,000 in 1996 to 133,000 in 2001, a 12.7 percent increase.

During this same time period, the number of hunters nationwide decreased from 14 million to 13 million.